

2. (Thrice Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising a dry mixture of a conventional alloyed zinc powder and a powder of Bi as an additional metal incorporated in said mixture in an amount of 50 - 1000 ppm by weight based on the amount of said conventional alloyed powder.

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6. (Thrice Amended) A negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising a mixture of a powder of Bi and a conventional alloyed zinc powder, said mixture being prepared by dry mixing said powder of Bi and said conventional alloyed zinc powder.

7. (Thrice Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising mixing a conventional alloyed zinc powder with a powder of Bi as an additional metal.

8. (Thrice Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell comprising mixing a conventional alloyed zinc powder with a powder of Bi as an additional metal, said additional metal being added in an amount of 50 to 1000 ppm by weight based on the weight of the conventional alloyed zinc powder.

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12. (Thrice Amended) A method of preparing a negative electrode active material for use in an alkaline cell of low gas generation comprising dry mixing a conventional alloyed zinc powder with a powder of Bi.

Please cancel claims 5 and 11, without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

--15. (New) The negative electrode active material according to Claim 1, wherein the alloyed zinc includes at least one element selected from the group consisting of Al, Bi, In, Ga, Sn and Pb.

16. (New) The negative electrode active material according to Claim 1, wherein the alloyed zinc contains Bi and In.

17. (New) The negative electrode active material according to Claim 1, wherein the alloyed zinc contains Bi, Al and In.

18. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the low gas generation is low hydrogen gas generation.--